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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF UTAH

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN ROCKNE MENDENHALL,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:22CR00105 DAK

STATEMENT BY DEFENDANT IN
ADVANCE OF PLEA OF GUILTY
AND PLEA AGREEMENT

Honorable Judge Dale A. Kimball

I hereby acknowledge and certify that I have been advised of and that I understand the following facts and rights, and that I have had the assistance of counsel in reviewing, explaining, and entering into this agreement:

1. As part of this agreement with the United States of America ("United States"), I intend to plead guilty to Count I of the Indictment. My attorney has explained the nature of the charge against me and I have had an opportunity to discuss the nature of the charge. I understand the charge and what the United States is required to prove to convict me. The elements of Count I, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, are:

- a. The defendant knew he had been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year;
- b. The defendant thereafter knowingly possessed a firearm; and
- c. The firearm was transported in interstate or foreign commerce at some point during or before the defendant's possession of it.

2. I know that the maximum possible penalty provided by law for Count I of the Indictment, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1), is a term of imprisonment of 10 years, a fine of \$250,000, a term of supervised release of three years, and any applicable forfeiture. I understand that if I violate a term or condition of supervised release, I can be returned to prison for the length of time provided in 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(3).

a. Additionally, I know the Court is required to impose an assessment in the amount of \$100 for each offense of conviction, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013.

b. I understand that, if I am not a United States citizen, I may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future.

3. I know that the sentencing procedures in this case and the ultimate sentence will be determined pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), and that the Court must consider, but is not bound by, the United States Sentencing Guidelines, in determining my sentence. I have discussed these procedures with my attorney. I also know that the final calculation of my sentence by the Court may differ from any calculation the United States, my attorney, or I may have made, and I will not be able to withdraw my plea if this occurs.

4. I know that I can be represented by an attorney at every stage of the proceeding, and I know that if I cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed to represent me.

5. I know that I have a right to plead "Not Guilty" or maintain my earlier plea of "Not Guilty" and can have a trial on the charges against me.

6. I know that I have a right to a trial by jury, and I know that if I stand trial by a jury:

a. I have a right to the assistance of counsel at every stage of the proceeding.

b. I have a right to see and observe the witnesses who testify against me.

c. My attorney can cross-examine all witnesses who testify against me.

d. I can call witnesses to testify at trial, and I can obtain subpoenas to require the attendance and testimony of those witnesses. If I cannot afford to pay for the appearance of a witness and mileage fees, the United States will pay them.

e. I cannot be forced to incriminate myself, and I do not have to testify at any trial.

f. If I do not want to testify, the jury will be told that no inference adverse to me may be drawn from my election not to testify.

g. The United States must prove each and every element of the offense charged against me beyond a reasonable doubt.

h. It requires a unanimous verdict of a jury to convict me.

i. If I were to be convicted, I could appeal, and if I could not afford to appeal, the United States would pay the costs of the appeal, including the services of appointed counsel.

7. If I plead guilty, I will not have a trial of any kind.

8. I know that 18 U.S.C. § 3742(a) sets forth the circumstances under which I may appeal my sentence

9. I know that 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b) sets forth the circumstances under which the United States may appeal my sentence.

10. I know that under a plea of guilty the judge may ask me questions under oath about the offense. The questions, if asked on the record and in the presence of counsel, must be answered truthfully and, if I give false answers, I can be prosecuted for perjury.

11. I stipulate and agree that the following facts accurately describe my conduct. These facts provide a basis for the Court to accept my guilty plea:

a. On July 24, 2022, I was driving a vehicle and was stopped by an officer with the Bountiful Police Department ("BPD"). The officer arrested me pursuant to an outstanding warrant issued by the Utah Board of Pardons.

b. The officers searched the vehicle and found: (i) two needles of methamphetamine in the passenger compartment; (ii) a loaded firearm in the trunk of the car; and (iii) a box of ammunition containing 10 rounds, also in the trunk of the vehicle. I knowingly possessed the methamphetamine, firearm and ammunition.

c. The firearm was a Brixia make, Charles Daly 1911 model, .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol. The firearm was manufactured outside the state of Utah. Therefore, the firearm necessarily traveled in interstate and/or foreign commerce prior to or during my possession of the firearm. I acknowledge that my DNA was found on the firearm.

d. Prior to my knowing possession of the firearm, I had been convicted of at least one felony offense punishable by a term of imprisonment exceeding one year. I knew I had this felony conviction.

12. The only terms and conditions pertaining to this plea agreement between the United States and me are as follows:

a. **Guilty Plea.** I will plead guilty to Count One of the Indictment.

b. **Dismissal of Counts.** The United States agrees to move for leave to dismiss Count Two at the time of sentencing. The United States also agrees not to seek an indictment against me for any other charges arising out of my conduct occurring on July 24, 2022, of which the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Utah is aware at this time.

c. **Relevant Conduct.** I understand and agree that the Presentence Report may include descriptions of conduct I engaged in which either was not charged against me, will not be pleaded to by me, or both. I understand and agree that the Court may take these facts into consideration in sentencing.

d. **Acceptance of Responsibility.** The United States agrees to recommend that my offense level under the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines be decreased by two levels for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Sentencing Guideline § 3E1.1(a) if, in the opinion of the United States, I clearly demonstrate acceptance of responsibility for my offense, up to and including at the time of sentencing, as set forth in § 3E1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines. In addition, the United States agrees to move for an additional one-level reduction in the offense level, in accordance with Sentencing Guideline § 3E1.1(b), if I qualify for a two-level reduction under § 3E1.1(a) and the offense level is 16 or greater prior to receiving the two-level reduction.

e. **Low-End Recommendation.** The United States agrees to recommend at sentencing that I be sentenced at the low-end of the Sentencing Guideline range determined by the Court. The United States' agreement is based on the facts and circumstances currently known to the United States. If additional facts regarding my history and characteristics or the nature and circumstances of

my conduct are discovered prior to sentencing, the United States reserves the right to reconsider this recommendation. I understand that the Court is not bound by the United States' recommendation.

f. **Presentence Report and Financial Information.** I agree to provide truthful and complete information, including financial information, as requested by the probation office for the preparation of my presentence report and for determination of the conditions of my supervised release. I also consent to allowing the United States Attorney's Office to run a credit check on me. I consent to being placed on the Treasury Offset Program and State Finder.

g. **Forfeiture.**

(1) I agree to forfeit all property acquired from or traceable to my offenses and all property that was used to facilitate my offenses, including, but not limited to, the following specific property:

A Brixia make, Charles Daly 1911 model, .45 caliber pistol and ammunition.

(2) I acknowledge that all property covered by this agreement is subject to forfeiture as property involved in illegal conduct giving rise to forfeiture.

(3) I agree that all such property may be forfeited in either an administrative, civil and/or criminal judicial proceeding. I agree that I will not make a claim to the property or otherwise oppose forfeiture in any such proceedings, and I will not help anyone else do so. If I have already made such a claim, I hereby withdraw it. I further agree that I will sign any necessary documents to ensure that clear title to the forfeited assets passes to the United States, and that I will testify truthfully in any judicial forfeiture proceeding. In addition, I agree that I will not make any claim to property forfeited by any other defendant in this case.

(4) I hereby waive any claims I may have against the United States regarding the seizure and forfeiture of the property covered by this agreement.

(5) I hereby waive the requirements regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment.

(6) I hereby waive any constitutional or statutory challenges to the forfeiture covered by this agreement, including that the forfeiture is an excessive fine or punishment.

13. I understand and agree that this plea agreement is solely between me and the United States Attorney for the District of Utah and does not bind any other federal, state, or local prosecuting, administrative, or regulatory authorities.

14. I understand that I have a right to ask the Court any questions I wish to ask concerning my rights about these proceedings and the plea.

* * * *

I make the following representations to the Court:

1. I am 53 years of age. My education consists of high school diploma.
I can [can/cannot] read and understand English.

2. This Statement in Advance contains all terms of the agreements between me and the United States; if there are exceptions, the Court will be specifically advised, on the record, at the time of my guilty plea of the additional terms. I understand the United States and I cannot have terms of this plea agreement that are not disclosed to the Court.

3. No one has made threats, promises, or representations to me that have caused me to plead guilty, other than the provisions set forth in this agreement.

4. Neither my attorney nor the United States has promised me that I would receive probation or any other form of leniency because of my plea.

5. I have discussed this case and this plea with my lawyer as much as I wish, and I have no additional questions.

6. I am satisfied with my lawyer.

7. My decision to enter this plea was made after full and careful thought; with the advice of counsel; and with a full understanding of my rights, the facts and circumstances of the case and the consequences of the plea. I was not under the influence of any drugs, medication, or intoxicants when I made the decision to enter the plea, and I am not now under the influence of any drugs, medication, or intoxicants.

8. I have no mental reservations concerning the plea.

9. I understand and agree to all of the above. I know that I am free to change or delete anything contained in this statement. I do not wish to make changes to this agreement because I agree with the terms and all of the statements are correct.


DATED this 7th day of March, 2023.



JOHN ROCKNE MENDENHALL
Defendant

I certify that I have discussed this plea agreement with the defendant, that I have fully explained his rights to him, and that I have assisted him in completing this written agreement. I believe that he is knowingly and voluntarily entering the plea with full knowledge of his legal rights and that there is a factual basis for the plea.

DATED this 7th day of March, 2023.




ADAM BRIDGE
Attorney for Defendant

I represent that all terms of the plea agreement between the defendant and the United States have been, or will be at the plea hearing, disclosed to the Court, and there are no undisclosed agreements between the defendant and the United States.

DATED this 7th day of March, 2023.

TRINA A. HIGGINS
United States Attorney



ALLISON H. BEHRENS
Assistant United States Attorney